

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No. 10/079,464
Attorney Docket No. 011703

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 16-18, 23, 25 and 28-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9-11, 16-18 are herein amended. Claims 3-8, 12-15, 19-22, 24, 26 and 27 are cancelled. Claims 30-35 are newly added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 23, 25, 28 and 29 are allowed and claims 3, 9-11 and 16-18 are allowable except for their dependence on rejected base claims. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 3. Claims 9-11 and 16-18 have been rewritten in independent form and to include the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. In addition, claims 30-32 are newly added claims representing alternative claims from original multi-dependent claims 9-11. Newly added claims 33-35 depend from allowable claims 16-18.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the objection to claims 9-11 and 16-18 is requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No. 10/079,464
Attorney Docket No. 011703

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. G. Melick', written in a cursive style.

Andrew G. Melick
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,868
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

AGM/sg